engaged in the distribution of essential commodities and marketing of agricultural produce are provided financial and administrative support through implementation of various plan schemes to enable them to function effectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The employees of co-operative societies are governed by co-operative societies regulations, rules/bye-laws prescribing their service conditions under which the employees are not entitled for pension but in lieu thereof they enjoy contributory provident fund and gratuity facilities and other retirement benefits.

Financial Assistance to Coconut Growers in Lakshadweep

1531. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government from the Coconuts growers of Lakshedweep for providing financial assistance to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and;

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Assistance to Minority Candidates for Competitive Examinations

1532. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide any assistance to minority candidates for appearing in the UPSC, SSC and other competitive examinations;

(b) if so, the number of candidates to whom assistance was provided and the amount spent thereon during the last one year;

(c) the number of successful candidates who had been assisted by the Government for different examinations during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government have stopped the grants to organisations engaged in such activities; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A grant-in-aid of Rs. one crore was given to 36 coaching/training centres by the Ministry of Welfare. Reports received from 29 Coaching/Training Centres show that 2889 candidates were coached under the scheme out of which 303 were successful.

UGC under their scheme of coaching centres sanctioned Rs. 0.24 crore to 52 Coaching Centres during 1990-91. Reports received from 26 Coaching Centres for 1989-90 show that 2052 candidates were coached and 195 candidates were successful.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.